# His Majesties GRACIOUS SPEECH

To the Honorable

## HOUSE of COMMONS,

In the Banquetting-house at

# White-Hall,

*March* 1. 166$\frac{1}{2}$.

*LONDON:*

Printed by *John Bill* and *Christopher Barker*, Printers to the KING'S most Excellent Majesty. 1661.

*CUM PRIVILEGIO.*

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## To the Honorable House of Commons, at *Whitehal*, *March* 1. 166$\frac{1}{2}$.

*Mr* SPEAKER, *and Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

FInding it necessary to say somewhat to you, I thought once of doing it by a Message, which hath been the most usual way; but when I considered, that speaking to you My Self, with that Plainness and Freedom I use to do, hath more of kindness in it, and with what Affection you

uſe to receive what I ſay to you; I reſolved to deliver My Meſſage to you My Self, and have therefore ſent for you hither, which hath been frequently done heretofore, though it be the firſt time I have done ſo.

I do ſpeak My Heart to you, when I tell you, That I do believe, that from the firſt Inſtitutions of Parliaments, to this hour, there was never a Houſe of Commons fuller of Affection and Duty to their King, then your are to Me; never any that was more deſirous and ſollicitous to gratifie their King, then you are to oblige Me; never a Houſe of Commons, in which there were fewer perſons without a full meaſure of Zeal, for the Honor and Welfare of the King and Country, then there are in this: The wonderful alacrity that you ſhewed at your firſt coming together, in giving Me ſo liberal a Supply, was an unqueſtionable Inſtance of this; and I aſſure you, made Our Neighbors abroad look upon Me and you with much the more reſpect and eſteem, and I am perſwaded, even broke the heart of ſome deſperate and ſeditious Deſigns at home. In a word, I know moſt of your faces and names, and can never hope to finde better men in your places.

You

You will wonder now, after I have willingly made this juſt acknowledgement to you, that I ſhould lament and even complain, that I and you and the Kingdom, are yet without that preſent fruit and advantage, which We might reaſonably promiſe Our Selves from ſuch a harmony of Affections, and a unity in Reſolutions to advance the Publique Service, and to provide for the Peace and Security of the Kingdom, that you do not expedite thoſe good Councels which are moſt neceſſary for both.

I know not how it comes to paſs, but for theſe many weeks paſt, even ſince your laſt Adjournment, private and particular buſineſs have almoſt thruſt the conſideration of the Publique out of doors; and in truth I do not know that you are nearer ſetling My Revenue, then you were at *Chriſtmas*: I am ſure I have communicated My Condition to you without reſerve, what I have coming in, and what My neceſſary Disburſments are, and I am exceedingly deceived, if whatever you give Me be any otherwiſe given to Me, then to be iſſued out for your own uſe and benefit; truſt me it ſhall be ſo, and if you conſider

it well, you will finde that you are the richer by what you give, since it is all to be laid out, that you may enjoy the rest in Peace and Security.

*Gentlemen*, I need not put you in minde of the miserable effects which have attended the wants and necessities of the Crown, I need not tell you, that there is a Republical Party still in the Kingdom, which hath the courage to promise themselves another Revolution, and Methinks I should as little need to tell you, that the onely way, with Gods blessing, to disappoint their hopes, and indeed to reduce them from those extravagant hopes and desires, is, to let them see, that you have so provided for the Crown, that it hath wherewithall to support it self, and to secure you, which I am sure is all I desire, and desire onely for your preservation: Therefore I do conjure you, by all the professions of affection you have made to Me, by all the kindness I know you have for Me, after all your deliberations, betake your selves to some speedy resolutions, and settle such a Real and Substantial Revenue upon Me, as may hold some pro-

portion

portion with the neceſſary Expences I am at for the Peace and Benefit, and Honour of the Kingdom, that they who look for troubles at home, may deſpair of their wiſhes; and that Our Neighbours abroad, by ſeeing that all is well at home, may have that eſteem and value of Us, as may ſecure the Intereſt and Honour of the Nation, and make the happineſs of this Kingdom, and of this City, once more the admiration and envy of the World.

*Gentlemen*, I hear you are very zealous for the Church, and very ſollicitous, and even jealous that there is not expedition enough uſed in that Affair, I thank you for it, ſince I preſume it proceeds from a good Root of Piety and Devotion; but I muſt tell you, I have the worſt luck in the world, if, after all the reproaches of being a Papiſt whilſt I was abroad, I am ſuſpected of being a Presbyterian now I am come home: I know you will not take it unkindly, if I tell you, that I am as zealous for the Church of *England*, as any of you can be, and am enough acquainted with the enemies of it, on all ſides; that I am as much in love with the Book

of

of Common Prayer, as you can wiſh, and have prejudice enough to thoſe who do not love it; who I hope in time will be better informed and change their mindes; and you may be confident, I do as much deſire to ſee a Uniformity ſettled, as any amongſt you. I pray truſt Me in that Affair, I promiſe you to haſten the diſpatch of it with all convenient ſpeed, you may relie upon me in it.

I have tranſmitted the Book of Common-Prayer with thoſe Alterations and Additions, which have been preſented to Me by the Convocation, to the Houſe of Peers, with My Approbation, that the Act of Uniformity may relate to it; ſo that I preſume it will be ſhortly diſpatched there: And when We have done all We can, the well-ſetling that Affair will require great Prudence and Diſcretion, and the abſence of all Paſſion and Precipitation.

I will Conclude, with putting you in minde, That the ſeaſon of the Year, the convenience of your being in the Country, in many reſpects, for the good and welfare of it; for you will finde much Tares have been Sowed there in your Abſence, the arrival of My Wife, who I expect ſome time

this

this Month, and the neceſſity of My Own being out of Town to meet Her, and to ſtay ſome time before She comes hither, makes it very neceſſary that the Parliament be Adjourned before *Eaſter*, to meet again in the Winter: And that it may do ſo, I pray lay aſide private Buſineſs, that you may in that time diſpatch the Publick. And there are few things I reckon more Publick, then your providing for the Security of the Fen-Lands, which I have ſo often recommended to you, and do it now very earneſtly. I pray let no private Animoſities or Conteſts, indanger a work of ſo great a Benefit and Honor to the Nation; but firſt provide for the ſupport of the Work, and then let Juſtice be done for determination of particular Intereſts.

The mention of My Wives arrival, puts Me in minde to deſire you to put that Complement upon Her, that Her entrance into the Town may be with more Decency then the Ways will now ſuffer it to be: And to that purpoſe, I pray you would quickly paſs ſuch Laws as are before you, in order to the amending thoſe Ways, and that She may not finde *Whitehal* ſurrounded with Water.

I will detain you no longer, but do promise My Self great Fruits of this Conversation with you, and that you will justifie the Confidence I have in your Affections, by letting the world see that you take My Concernments to heart, and are ready to do whatsoever I desire for the Peace and Welfare of the Kingdom.

FINIS.

*LONDON*,

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